

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed December 17, 2004. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 23-25, 28-32, 35-38, 42-44, 48-51, and 54-56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rosekrans, et al. ("Rosekrans," U.S. Pat. No. 5,450,571). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

It is axiomatic that "[a]nticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration." *W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 1554, 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Therefore, every claimed feature of the claimed invention must be represented in the applied reference to constitute a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In the present case, not every feature of the claimed invention is represented in the Rosekrans reference. Applicant discusses and the Rosekrans reference Applicant's claims in the following.

A. The Rosekrans Reference

Rosekrans discloses a filtering process for a printing system that filters out non-selectable print programming selections. As is described by Rosekrans, the process begins with a user selecting a printer. Rosekrans, column 4, lines 20-24. Once the selection is made, an electronic job ticket is generated for presentation to the user to enable the user to select the various aspects of the print job (e.g., use of transparency media). Rosekrans, column 4, lines 12-17.

Given that the various different printers that are available to the user (e.g., on a given network) may have different capabilities, filtering is performed on the electronic job ticket before it is presented to the user. Rosekrans, column 4, line 63 to column 5, line 1. Specifically, the Rosekrans system applies a mask to the electronic job ticket such that the ticket that is displayed to the user only reflects the various tasks that the printer selected by the user is capable of performing. Rosekrans, column 5, lines 5-65. Therefore, to cite an example, if the printer the user has selected cannot print on transparencies, the transparency option is filtered out from the electronic job ticket that is presented to the user. Rosekrans, column 6, lines 17-29.

B. Applicant's Claims

Applicant's claims contain many limitations that are not taught or suggested by Rosekrans. Applicant discusses those claim limitations in the following.

1. Claims 23-25, 28-32, 35-38, and 42-43

Independent claim 23 provides as follows (emphasis added):

23. A method for completing jobs, comprising:
receiving a job request that includes content and data describing how the job is to be completed;
storing the content as one or more files;
creating a job ticket associated with the content using the data describing how the job is to be completed, the job ticket describing various tasks that must be completed to complete the job;
storing the job ticket;
assigning a processor to complete one or more of the tasks of the job; and

enabling the processor to access a portion of the job ticket associated with the one or more tasks and to access a portion of the stored content upon which the one or more tasks are to be performed, such that the processor can complete the tasks to which the processor has been assigned.

As is described above, the Rosekrans reference generally concerns print jobs and job tickets. Despite that fact, the Rosekrans reference is clearly deficient in anticipating each limitation of Applicant's claim 23. First, Rosekrans does not teach "receiving a job request that includes content and data describing how the job is to be completed", "storing the content as one or more files", and "creating a job ticket associated with the content using the data describing how the job is to be completed, the job ticket describing various tasks that must be completed to complete the job". In support of the argument that Rosekrans does teach those limitations, the Office Action cites column 2, lines 9-21. That portion of the Rosekrans reference provides as follows:

... the steps of: providing a common electronic job ticket having a first binary inter-client protocol format and a second client-server protocol format for use by the clients in programming printing instructions for print jobs; providing a printer user interface mask file for each of the printers identifying the programming selections ...

Clearly, the above excerpt says nothing about "receiving a job request that includes content and data describing how the job is to be completed". Furthermore, the excerpt says nothing about, once the job request content is received, "storing the content as one or more files". Moreover, that excerpt is silent as to "creating a job ticket associated with the content using the data describing how the job is to be completed, the job ticket describing various tasks that must be completed to complete

the job”. This is not surprising because, since no content describing how the job is to be completed is received, it follows that a job ticket cannot be formed “using the data describing how the job is to be completed”.

Rosekrans further does not teach or suggest “storing the job ticket”. Contrary to that alleged in the Office Action, Rosekrans does not teach such storing in column 3, lines 23-27. That portion of the Rosekrans reference provides as follows:

. . . programming selections for print jobs to be made, screen 17 displaying the various programming selections available in the form of a job ticket as will appear. Printers 12-1, 12-2, 12-3, . . . 12-n, clients 15-1, 15-2, 15-3, . . . 15-n, and server 25 are operatively interconnected
...

This excerpt says nothing about “storing” a job ticket.

Applicant further notes that Rosekrans does not teach “assigning a processor to complete one or more of the tasks of the job”. Although the user can “select” a printer, Rosekrans simply does not mention assigning a processor to complete one or more of the tasks of the job. Neither column 3, lines 62-67, nor column 4, lines 25-37, which were cited in the Office Action, identify such assigning.

Finally, Applicant notes that Rosekrans does not teach or suggest “enabling the processor to access a portion of the job ticket associated with the one or more tasks and to access a portion of the stored content upon which the one or more tasks are to be performed, such that the processor can complete the tasks to which the processor has been assigned”. Simply stated, Rosekrans’ reference is silent as to providing access to a “portion” of a job ticket associated with one or more tasks to be performed, or providing access to a “portion” of the stored content upon which the tasks are to be

performed. Accordingly, column 6, lines 4-8, and column 4, lines 25-37, do not provide such a teaching.

In view of the above, Rosekrans does not anticipate claim 23. Applicant therefore submits that claim 23 and its dependents are allowable over the Rosekrans reference. Applicant notes, however, that the claims that depend from claim 23 comprise several limitations that are not anticipated by Rosekrans. Applicant discusses some of these claims in the following.

Regarding claim 25, Rosekrans does not teach “creating a job ticket that includes a job ID that associates the job ticket with the stored content”. Column 4, lines 9-18 simply do not provide a teaching as to a job ID.

Regarding claim 28, Rosekrans does not teach “determining which processors are able and available to complete the one or more tasks”. As is noted above, Rosekrans teaches the opposite: the user selects a printer, and the abilities of the selected printer are conveyed to the user through the electronic job ticket. Notably, each of claims 29-32 depend from claim 28.

Regarding claims 29 and 30, Rosekrans says nothing about “polling the processors” or “posting a job ticket notice that enables processors to bid on the one or more tasks”. This is not surprising given that the Rosekrans system does not determine which processors are able to complete a task.

Regarding claims 31 and 32, Rosekrans does not teach “receiving bids to complete the one or more tasks and evaluating the bids” or “applying a set of criteria or applying an evaluation algorithm”.

Regarding claim 35, Rosekrans clearly fails to teach or suggest “assigning multiple different processors to complete different tasks of the job”. Again, in the Rosekrans process, the user selects a single printer, and that printer is used to process

the print job. Rosekrans provides no indication whatsoever that a print job is or can be processed by more than one processor. Notably, claims 36-38 and 42 depend from claim 35.

Finally, regarding claims 36, 37, and 42, Rosekrans does not teach or suggest “enabling different processors to access portions of the job ticket and portions of the stored content associated with tasks to which they have been assigned”, “wherein the different processors are provided access to separate branches of the job ticket associated with different tasks to be performed”, or “controlling the order in which the different tasks of the job are completed and by which processor”. Applicant refers back to Applicant’s comments regarding claim 35.

2. Claims 44, 48-51, and 54-56

Independent claim 44 provides as follows (emphasis added):

44. A service center that receives job requests from clients,
the service center comprising:

a job store that stores content of jobs that are to be completed
and provides access to the content;

a job ticket service that stores job tickets that describe how the
jobs are to be completed and provides access to the job tickets, the job
tickets comprising one or more branches that are associated with one or
more tasks that must be completed to complete the jobs, the job tickets
being associated with the stored content; and

a workflow controller that creates job tickets and assigns
processors to complete the one or more tasks of the jobs based upon
the processors’ ability and availability to complete the one or more
tasks;

wherein more than one assigned processor may complete a task of a given job such that multiple processors can be used to complete the same job.

The Rosekrans disclosure is similarly deficient in relation to Applicant's claim 44. Beginning with the first limitation of claim 44, Rosekrans does not describe a "a job store that stores content of jobs that are to be completed". Column 2, lines 9-21 describe no such store.

Rosekrans also does not teach "a job ticket service that stores job tickets that describe how the jobs are to be completed and provides access to the job tickets, the job tickets comprising one or more branches that are associated with one or more tasks that must be completed to complete the jobs, the job tickets being associated with the stored content". First, as is noted above, Rosekrans does not anticipate "storing" job tickets. Second, Rosekrans says absolutely nothing about job tickets that comprise "branches" that are associated with tasks that are to be completed. Instead, as is noted above, Rosekrans simply discloses an electronic job ticket that presents various options to a user.

Rosekrans further does not teach "a workflow controller that creates job tickets and assigns processors to complete the one or more tasks of the jobs based upon the processors' ability and availability to complete the one or more tasks". As is noted above, nothing in the Rosekrans system "assigns processors to complete the one or more tasks of the jobs based upon the processors' ability and availability". Instead, it is the user who chooses the printer, irrespective of the printer's ability or availability.

Finally, Rosekrans certainly does not teach "wherein more than one assigned processor may complete a task of a given job such that multiple processors can be

used to complete the same job”. Again, Rosekrans only anticipates a single printer completing a given print job.

In view of the above, Rosekrans does not anticipate claim 44. Applicant therefore submits that claim 44 and its dependents are allowable over the Rosekrans reference. Applicant notes, however, that the claims that depend from claim 44 comprise several limitations that are not anticipated by Rosekrans. Applicant discusses some of these claims in the following.

Regarding claim 48, Rosekrans fails to teach a work flow controller that “determines which processors are able and available to complete the one or more of the tasks”. See the discussion of claim 28 above. Notably, each of claims 49-51 depend from claim 48.

Regarding claims 49 and 50, Rosekrans does not teach that the work flow controller “determines which processors are able and available by polling the processors” or “determines which processors are able and available by posting job ticket notices that enable processors to bid on the one or more tasks”. See the discussion of claims 29 and 30 above.

Regarding claim 51, Rosekrans does not teach “a bidding service that receives and evaluates bids to complete the one or more tasks”. Simply stated, Rosekrans says nothing about bidding for processing jobs.

Finally, regarding claims 54 and 55, Rosekrans does not teach a work flow controller that is “configured to assign different processors to complete different tasks of a job” or to “control the order in which the different tasks of the job are completed and by which processor”. See the discussion of claims 35 and 42 above.

C. Conclusion

Due to the many shortcomings of the Rosekrans reference described in the foregoing, Applicant respectfully asserts that Rosekrans does not anticipate Applicant's claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

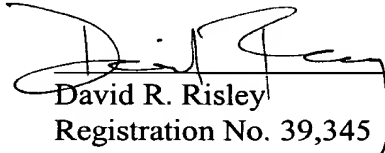
Claims 26-27, 33-34, 39-41, 45-47, and 52-53 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosekrans in view of Nevarez, et al. ("Nevarez," U.S. Pat. No. 6,189,103). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As is identified above in reference to independent claim 1, Rosekrans fails to teach many of Applicant's explicit claim limitations. In that the Nevarez reference does not remedy the deficiencies of the Rosekrans reference, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 26-27, 33-34, 39-41, 45-47, and 52-53 are allowable over the Rosekrans/Nevarez combination for at least the same reasons that claims 23 and 44 are allowable over Rosekrans.

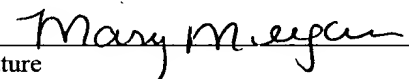
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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